PRINCETON THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY

J. GRESHAM MACHEN
POST OFFICE ADDRESS
BOX 4, PRINCETON, N. J.

April 27th, 1928.

Rev. W. Courtland Robinson, D.D.,
Delhi,
New York.

Dear Dr. Robinson:

I feel very guilty at not having written to you sooner, but now seize the opportunity given by your notable victory in the Presbytery of Otsego. It is certainly encouraging to gain any support in such a region as New York, and you are to be congratulated most warmly.

What I should have done long ago, of course, is to express my appreciation of your pamphlet on the Princeton situation. You are well aware, indeed, that my agreement with the pamphlet is not complete. When Dr. Erdman was a candidate for Moderator, he was a candidate both times on the basis of a very distinct platform which it does not seem to me that we could possibly accept. And all during his moderatorial year he carried out quite consistently the policy set forth in that platform. He gave the Modernists every support, and engaged repeatedly in abuse of the evangelical party in the Church. I do not hold therefore that the conservative members of our Faculty could possibly have supported Dr. Erdman's candidacy and at the same time be true to the principles of our lives. In the second place the very centre of the ugly situation at Princeton is to be found in Dr. Erdman's letter in the Presbyterian Advance. That letter, which is quite without parellel in academic circles so far as I know, was the root of all the publicity which has done such harm to the Seminary. I think therefore that it ought to be mentioned in any detailed review of the situation. In the third place, when Dr. Wilson and not Dr. Erdman was appointed as Faculty Adviser, it was not done because of general objection to Dr. Erdman's attitude, but specifically because of his disagreement with a measure - the League of Evangelical Students - which the majority of the Faculty and the majority of the students desired to carry out. For this specific reason, his tenure of the position would have been simply unworkable, and would have given rise to a guerilla warfare all the time.

Well, I have that out of my system. You are probably aware of my attitude on these points already, but fortunately it does not stand in the way either of our friendship or our common endeavor to save Princeton Seminary. Your

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pamphlet is especially valuable because it shows that even if the facts are what you, as distinguished from us, regard them as being, still the proposed reorganization is unjust and disastrous. And certainly the pamphlet is written with nothing short of consummate skill. It has had an immense effect in the Church, and I hope will gain us many votes.

The Committee's report, which has just appeared in the Blue Book is if anything even more brutal than I supposed that it would be. And that is well enough. It is far better that the real animus of the thing should thus be made clear, in order that the evangelical forces in the Church should be rallied against it.

Dr. Warfield's report no doubt does us great harm in some ways. Particularly unfortunate, it seems to me, is his mention of the fact that he suggested to the Committee a simple merger of the two boards complete. That proposal seems to me to constitute the deadliest danger of all. It would give the control of the institution over to Modernism just as much as the Committee's plan does, and it would have the additional disadvantage of camouflaging more successfully what is being done. I cannot imagine anything that would put us more completely down and out. We should be under the dominance of the president and of the modernist forces just the same, but our chances of rallying the conservative element in the Church to the founding of a really evangelical institution would be diminished. God save us from such a situation as that!

On the other hand there are features about Dr. Warfield's minority report which are good. In particular, I am extremely glad that he does not actually propose to the Assembly the merger of the boards. If he had done so, that would have been a very great blow against our cause. Moreover, I think Dr. Warfield's report, despite its mildness, does tend to show the unfairness of the Committee. One can read between the lines, I think, the fact that Dr. Warfield's real attitude is disgust at the whole miserable business.

Hopeful news comes in from different parts of the Church. In Los Angeles Presbytery, for example, the very home of militant pacifism, Ray Brahams was actually elected a commissioner. Ray Brahams was one of the two recent graduates of Princeton Seminary who came all the way from California to Princeton simply to testify

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at that alumni hearing before the Committee of Five; and he was the one whom Dr. Thompson made such an unsuccessful attempt to bully. Milo Jamison, an associate of Ray Brahams at the Seminary, was also elected; and I understand that nine of the other commissioners are on our side. That gives us eleven out of the twenty-six commissioners in the delegation, and I understand that half of the delegation may actually vote our way. Such a result carries the war into the enemy's country with a vengeance.

In the Presbytery of Washington, D.C., Dr. Wallace Radcliffe introduced Dr. Dixon's New Brunswick Resolution, but after full discussion got only four or five votes for it. I hope the commissioners are on our side.

Baltimore went overwhelmingly modernist, as was expected, and Dr. Stevenson was elected by a large majority. But apparently J.M.T. Finney is not a commissioner, and I am glad of that, since he would be powerful on the floor. It is perhaps fortunate that Hugh Hodge was elected. He is a violent modernist, and may"spill the beans" by saying what I am told he said in effect at the alumni hearing last year - that he favors the reorganization of the Seminary, but does so for the distinct reason that it will put a stop to the teaching of this miserable seventeenth century theology. I hope that he may prove to be an <u>enfant terrible</u> for the modernist forces.

Presbyteries here and there are adopting the Chester Protest or taking similar action.

J. Roy Dickie is a commissioner from Pittsburgh. I understand that he is to engage Dr. Snowden in public debate on the Princeton situation next Monday. Poor Snowden! But he deserves all that is coming to him.

You are aware of the result in New Brunswick Presbytery. Even for me personally it was a moral victory. I was not defeated; but although I was tied with Dr. Beach for the highest number of votes (only one less than required to elect) when two ministerial positions still remained to be filled, I thought that team-play required me to withdraw my name. Perhaps I was mistaken in this action, especially since it is probable that I would have been elected. But I had to think quick and do the best I could. I feared the division of our vote on the next ballot.

"Let courage rise with danger" is what I think we ought to say. I am not at all sure that the Church is undermined quite far enough to stand for anything quite so raw as what is now proposed.

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J. GRESHAM MACHEN
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We did not, it seems to me, make quite enough use out of the Herbert Adams Gibbons propaganda. Gibbons is a radical modernist, as is shown not only by his signing of the Auburn Affirmation but by an article in the little volume entitled "My Religion", by Otis Skinner and others, published by the Century Company. It is that kind of "conservatism" which will be in control if this reorganization goes through.

Let me say again how important I think your contribution to the fight is. Your pamphlet took like wild fire and while its estimate of my position and that of my colleagues is not exactly what my estimate of it is, I do rejoice in the measure of our agreement, and particularly do I rejoice in the advancement of the cause.

Cordially yours,

J. Gresham Machen

LOS ANGELES STEAMSHIP CO.

S.S. CITY OF HONOLULU

July 6. 1927

Dear Cousin Court,

Across since I have heard from you and I wonder how it is with you and Cousin Gussie. Hope you are both well and happy and prosperous. Through your letter to Will

and Ellen I had news of you indirectly; so I knew that you were still carrying on.

Here am I half way along the watery road to Honolulu. I was coming with Mrs. Peck an old friend, just a few days before leaving Denver, she was carried to the hospital. I decided to come on alone, then I thought of Miss Churchman who has been in my life for thirty years; so I telegraphed her at Long Beach, Calif. and now on this fine ship filled with beautiful homes we are taking our daily dozens on deck and in the gym. Instead of saying as the Italians do, "See Naples and die", the Hawaiians say, "See Hawaii and live eternally". So there I expect to find the fountain of youth.

When I left, Will and Ellen were in New York city and Boston and Glens Falls. No doubt you will see them before

they return. You will like Ellen immensely. I love her dearly, & of course if I do, the whole family should.

The first two days out everybody was ill or nearly so, but I am a good sailor; so there was a thrill in everything the sea and ship did.

Love to you both from

Your cousin, Mary Fenton

5126 NEWHALL STREET
PHILADELPHIA, PENNA. Sept - 21 - 1927 -

My dear Dr. Robinson, -

Your very kind, and beautiful, letter helped me - In the first place it made me have a good cry which was a great relief to my pent up feelings - I had not been able to shed a tear after dear Mother left us, until I read your letter. Mother passed from us, into the better world, very peacefully, without any suffering, and I was given strength to care for her until the last. It was just a wearing out of

the dear old heart, and I had no more to do for her, than I had been doing for seven years. Really wonderful for one of her age. You spoke of her so beautifully, and I know it was all true. She was one of the most unselfish persons I have ever known. I remember her, from my childhood, as always doing for others. Even through these last years, as she sat quietly in her room, she was always trying to spare me. I have beautiful memories of her which I cherish. You will remember the last time I saw you, I told you what

5126 NEWHALL STREET
PHILADELPHIA, PENNA.

Mother had said, that she loved you more than any person she had ever had. We have often talked about you and Mrs. Robinson, and her happy days at Northumberland. How I would love to have had you with us the day we laid her away, but it did not seem possible. I am terribly lonely, and it will take some time to get used to just caring for myself. My life seems so empty. But I do have

the peace and comfort of my Heavenly Father's love which means so much to those who know Him.
With my love to you and Mrs. Robinson. Mrs. Robinson knows what I am passing through, she cared for her dear mother so long.

Sincerely yours.
Marguerite E. Wickes

Syracuse N.Y.
July 3. 1.

Dear old Friend —

I was glad to find your letter here when I came home from Jenets a few days ago. Glad too that something happened to make you write. for it is long since I heard from you —

I am sure you must have been doubly sorry to have missed me had I accompanied my husband to Selkirk. as I originally planned to do. But the charm of my young grandaughter held me in Syracuse. I am quite as rich as you and Mrs Robertson now for I too have three grandchildren now dear. Mary Stevenson came on the 6th of June — such is a really beautiful little thing with

her father's big brown eyes - her
mother's dimples - and curly hair
fairly produces human wheat -
Nature seems to have been
prodigal in its gifts to her -
This is so like Jim - that I
could easily believe the years had
rolled away and I had my own
little boy back again - (This
to - white beauty is said to
be only in the eyes of the beholder -
is what is known as modern
parlance a "very to look at" -
Jim said he had Alwood
and Anne a few moments last
met and Alwood was bringing
the children to you - so I
presume by now they are there
bringing much joy with them
What a beautiful place for
them to spend the summer! -
I had Janet's little girl (aged
two) with me for a month this
spring - while Janet went to the

coast. It was wonderful - but almost - I'm sure Lentz met by the roads when she left her day. I had an announcement of Irene Rife and Mr. Jas Mooney - and much I'm million her luck I know when a time meet her. Can you see me? I hope she will be very happy - but we never thought he was good enough for her. But I ask you - is any man for that matter?

We are just "breakin' along - with the breeze" a new stall & McCheney packing will probably take all our time and money this next year and we will have to stay at home. altho' we look with longing toward South America and Africa.

Your old prisoners are all about as usual - Quite a bros of June weddings left off many of the younger crowd - Margaret Bruce Virginia Things busy and those

young girls. - but you have probably heard about that.
Dr. Ferris and his family have taken a chateau in France for the summer. I think many of his people feel that he gets a lot more than he ought but he seems to get away with it. and aren't you coming to the fore with an assistant in anything?
I don't like you to even intimate that you are getting old - we are not even old - dear friends, but older.
So cease this my next time you go to Lock port: we all want to see Mrs Robinson and you -
The best man in the world joins me in kindest regards to you all -
Generous P. McCleary -
P.S. Mrs Lambert was operated on for cancer at the Memorial Hospital last week. I do not know how successfully - time alone can tell.

The Presbyterian Church in the United States of America

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

MODERATOR
ROBERT E. SPEER, D.D., LL.D.
NEW YORK, N. Y.

VICE-MODERATOR
WARREN H. LANDON, D.D., LL.D.
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STATED CLERK
LEWIS S. MUDGE, D.D., LL.D.
PHILADELPHIA, PA.

TREASURER
LAND TITLE AND TRUST CO.
PHILADELPHIA, PA.

April 16, 1928.

Rev. W. Courtland Robinson, D.D.,
Delhi, New York.

Dear Dr. Robinson:

I have your letter of April 13th. It is a pleasure to answer frankly and fully your questions.

I. Standing Rule No. 29 of the General Assembly reads as follows:

"All reports of Special and other Committees shall be delivered to the Stated Clerk on or before April 1, in each year, shall be printed by him, copies shall be sent, in bound form, to Commissioners, so far as practicable, immediately upon notification of their election; and copies shall also be delivered to the Assembly on the second day of the sessions.

All reports included in the above bound form are thereby released for public comment or quotation, but such release does not preclude subsequent changes in any report before its presentation at the General Assembly."

If a Committee fails to comply with the provisions of this Rule, it would apparently be in order for any one, so desiring, to raise the question on the floor of the Assembly when the report of said Committee was presented as to whether the report was in order. The raising of such a question would give the Committee in question an opportunity to explain its failure to comply with the Rule and so the General Assembly to ascertain first hand whether disobedience had been deliberate and wilfull to some degree, or in part or in whole unavoidable. During my term of office as Stated Clerk this question has never been raised on the floor of the Assembly. If it ever should be raised with reference to the report of any Committee, of course, the case at issue would have to be decided on its merits.

II. As to the Report of the Princeton Committee to be presented to this year's General Assembly, it is now in my hands and is being put through the process of printing as rapidly as is possible. The Report of the Princeton Committee for this year as filed with me in its final form contains only the Majority and the Minority Reports. There is no rejoinder. However, if

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there had been a rejoinder I do not see what authority I would have had as Stated Clerk to refuse to print it. It seems perfectly clear that the Stated Clerk of the Assembly has no authority whatever as a censor over the contents of General Assembly Committee reports filed with him for printing in the Blue Book. Whatever they contain he must print. For the contents of a Committee's Report is it not perfectly clear that the Committee and the Committee alone must be held responsible?

I trust that you will write me again if there is anything in the above which is not in your judgment perfectly clear and straight forward.

With warm personal regards, believe me

Yours sincerely,

Lewis S. Mudge

Lewis S. Mudge
Stated Clerk

THE MERCERSBURG ACADEMY
MERCERSBURG, PENNA.

WILLIAM MANN IRVINE, PH. D., LL. D.,
HEAD MASTER

April
Twelfth
1 9 2 8

Dr. A. Cort Robinson,

Delhi, N. Y.

My dear Cort:

As you already know, I am to be the toastmaster at our class dinner in Princeton on the evening of Friday, June 15th. I want you to be one of the men to make a short toast on that happy occasion. Choose your own subject and talk for about eight or ten minutes. You might also let me know upon which topic you would like to speak.

Trusting that you will let me hear from you soon and hoping that you are well, also wishing you many blessings in everything that you undertake, I am, with kindest regards in which Mrs. Irvine joins me,

Most cordially yours,

W. M. Irvine

JFR

THE MERCERSBURG ACADEMY
MERCERSBURG, PENNA.

WILLIAM MANN IRVINE, PH. D., LL. D.,
HEAD MASTER

March
26
19 28

Dr. William C. Robinson,

Dehli, N. Y.

My dear Robinson:

As you know, the fortieth anniversary dinner of our class will be held at the Headquarters on the evening of Friday, June 15th. I have been asked to act as toastmaster at the dinner and I have accepted this honor. I have consulted the members of the committee and we want you to respond to a toast on that very happy occasion. Be prepared to make a toast of about ten or twelve minutes in length and in the meantime you might let me know upon what special topic you wish to speak.

Trusting that you will be able to grant this request and hoping that you will let me hear from you soon because we want to make the reunion a very great success from every point of view, I am, with affectionate regards,

Most cordially yours,

W. M. Irvine

JFR

April 1st. 1928

304 SUMMIT AVENUE
SYRACUSE, N.Y.

My dear Friend,
I have been thinking a lot about my good friends in Delhi lately, and was so glad to get your Easter message. I had thought to write often, but find it hard to make myself take up the old interests again.
You would like your last book a really delightful writer. I trust Mr. Jacob

in February - thinking if
Milton made a bad
appearance I must go to
a warmer climate. as
I hadn't been north for
four winters and my
children felt a great re-
sponsability regarding
my health concerning
my tendency to cold
and pneumonia, but
it was lovely all the time
I was there - they have so
much more sunshine
than we do - altho about
the same climate,

Mr - Jamie and I went to N.Y. for a week and Lucie Marion came down - We did many things we had never had time to do in the old gay days - It has been fun and I felt been inside a museum - We saw some of my old friends.

I think one of the hardest things I have had to do was come back to my empty house - I had never been out of town for a day before that Francis met me at the platform to meet me when my train came in - and as glad to see me as tho I had been round the world - I find that things do not grow any easier as time goes by. Someone has said that a "heart has to be broken before life can pass thro it" It is so hard that "To grow means often to suffer" It is only the assurance of the life beyond - that this glorious resurrection season brings - to my sad heart - and the unfailing hope that I shall see my dear one again that I have courage & strength to go on -

304 SUMMIT AVENUE
SYRACUSE, N.Y.

Dr Hadley paid Francis such a beautiful tribute on Good Friday - in his sermon "It is finished" - As I hear so much discussion on the part of the members of Park church - I think of Francis spiritual growth, with his spirit unfettered and unhampered - during the last five years. I am always glad that we made the change. I lunched with Mrs McKeehy yesterday and she said she has had no

keep spiritually from Sr Fanni
in years - and so after she
leaves the church feeling that
she can never go back to it
of course she does. You know
her - and know the world -
I see by the papers that Mrs.
Fanni has come into another
fortune... They are leaving
for their estate in Maryland
May 1st. I do not think she
has ever seen it - She had it
a short time back - Can
you imagine a man going
off by himself and choosing a
doctrine and buying a home
and expecting to live to enjoy
it. SOW mockalit if he had no a wife -

Mrs. Archbold is coming for lunch with me today. The family with its various ramifications is as interesting as ever - Cornell is (Barbara Curtis) to be married to a Phila girl in June - and the general concensus of opinion seems to be that Ann is engaged to an Amherst Senior.

Uncle Albert celebrates his 80th birthday the 17th - He is very feeble - but hard as nails - I think sometimes he hasn't any heart - I feel only a great pitty for him - Think what it would be to live with yourself under those conditions!

I hope you won't forget me when you are driving thro' to Lockport - as I am sure you will be this spring or summer - I need not tell you how glad I shall always be to see you -

Ever affectionately yours

Dwight W. Chesney -

Elmira, N.Y.
Feb 12, 1928

Dear Dr. Robinson,

Valentine Greetings! Ever since I came back I've been going to get a letter off to you and after all my delay I think this is a very appropriate time! To be thanked I wanted it to reach you before you started away! I thought it's better give you a little pastoral advice - the kind I like to get from you! No really the fundamental purpose of this crazy epistle is to tell you how much I enjoyed those

death of me yet! If I take it too seriously I'll be spending the rest of my life trying to decide the moral standards involved in a given situation and trying to decide the consequences! It really is a fascinating course but at first I felt rather dipped in deep waters! After two weeks I'm getting used to thinking philosophically!

I was just thinking that you will be getting back to Delhi at about the same time I do. My Easter vacation begins in six weeks. It doesn't seem possible!

Now, I just hope you have the best time ever

fine wonderful sermons I heard while home last time! You don't know how much I enjoyed them for you know I've told you before I seldom hear sermons in the light of my definition! Mitty didn't do so badly for him this morning! His subject was "Give me enough Christianity, I'll depart"! As my roommate expressed it he said the same thing a million different ways but he did get something in that which I had!

I've just had one terrible week here since I came semester! I'm taking a course in Ethics which I fear will be the

while away - but above all thing don't forget to write! You see - there is still a possibility of my getting married and it's late to have you get too far away!

Why, it's long past my bed time and I must stop! If you get some extra time while away don't forget me when writing letters!

I'd say good night with much love to Mrs Robinson and yourself

Mr Snider

Class of 1888, Princeton

40TH REUNION—JUNE 15-19, 1928

REUNION COMMITTEE

ARTHUR D. FORST
BENJAMIN VAN D. HEDGES
THOMAS N. MCCARTER
JUNIUS S. MORGAN
CHARLES H. WILSON, TRANSPORTATION
48 WEST 59TH ST., NEW YORK
AND
CLASS OFFICERS, EX OFFICIO

CLASS OFFICERS

CHAS. W. MCALPIN, PRES.
HOTEL MCALPIN, NEW YORK
HOWARD MCWILLIAMS, TREAS.
31 NASSAU ST., NEW YORK
BENJ. VAN D. HEDGES,
MEMBER GRADUATE COUNCIL
ERNEST T. CARTER, SEC'Y
115 EAST 69TH ST., NEW YORK

February 6, 1928

Dear Court:

Ernie Carter has told you, in case you had forgotten, that the years are rolling around and our fortieth Reunion is approaching.

The Reunion Committee is at work, and now the men of '88 must do their part, and if they do the Reunion will be a success. Won't you cooperate, first, by letting Ernie know promptly that you are coming, and, second, by letting me know if the amount I suggest as your subscription to the Reunion expenses seems reasonable, and, if so, when it will be forthcoming? Check should be drawn to the order of Howard McWilliams, Treasurer, and may be sent either to me at Hotel McAlpin or to McWilliams at 31 Nassau Street, New York, N.Y.

I have studied the list of individual subscriptions to our Reunion of five years ago, and have increased them somewhat because there will be additional expenses this year for headquarters, catering, and the band that we did not have in 1923. May I suggest $25.00 as your subscription?

This matter has been left entirely in my hands by the Committee, and I was not unwilling to undertake it, as you have been so good to the class and to me in the past.

Sincerely yours,

C.W.McAlpin

To
Dr. W. Courtland Robinson,
Delhi, N.Y.

P.S. We shall adopt the same rule about pulpit supply that we followed in 1923. If you must pay for a supply for your pulpit send the bill to the Committee or tell Howard McWilliams about it when you come.

Cambridge N. Y.
December 4th

Dear Cortland!

Your letter was so good and acceptable to me that I am answering it my own and hope for another, I was pleased that you thought me a "lofer" Robinson, your father was my favorite, he was always pleasant and kind, and so was your mother, Mattie and Hattie I simply detested, they acted so, I was

a servant, which I resent-
ed, I told father one time
why I disliked them, he
said "never mind child
they would not do it if
they knew more than they
did," mother always loved
your mother. May and Will
started in their car for
Florida the ninth of Nove-
ber, and Iggie and Maid
by train the ninteenth of
November, they are in the
same apartment house at
Pass-a-Grille, that they were
last winter, May loves the
Gulf of Mexico, and it agrees

with her, I hope Lizzie has less trouble than she had last winter with her eyes and ears. Right here I was pleased to entertain some callers, Charles Larson and his wife, and Col. Raymond and wife, the Larsons start for Florida Wednesday they are going in their Car, I shall miss them very much, they bought me some beautiful chrysanthemums. Yes, Will Curtis enjoys his popularity, his bill for postage must mount up into the hundreds, as

his cards to all relatives and friends all over the world, I think he has plenty of money, and so has his wife. I am quite lame now, think the weather affects me, at my age I will probably limp for while I stay, but I am very sure I will not limp over there. Has the last of Stewart's children a girl or boy? I am glad to hear from them. Fannie & Mr. L were at Nils for Thanksgiving, I have not seen her since, they are so crowded in our hospital, it is being enlarged.

With love to Mr. L. and yourself dear Georgie

Third Presbyterian Church.
Pittsburgh, Pa.

December 3, 1927.

Rev. W. C. Robinson, D.D.
Delhi, New York

My Dear Dr. Robinson:

Your note, enclosing Dr. Craig's letter, came this morning. As requested, I am returning Dr. Craig's letter. I am quite surprised at the approval he gives of your effort. I do not doubt his sincerity for a moment, but I think his spirit will harden against your treatment of both Dr. Erdman and Dr. Machen in the same fair and courteous spirit. It is an encouraging thing that he has given as full approval as his letter conveys. It increases my belief that such a pamphlet should have a conciliatory effect upon even the most extreme men. The kind of controversy that is being carried on between the Presbyterian and the Banner does not, in my judgment, do any good.

In your last letter to me you intimated that you interpreted my position as questioning whether the pamphlet ought to be issued. You are wrong in your interpretation, for I think it would do good. My difficulty in thinking about it was connected with the way in which it could be brought before the church. The articles are so manifestly the work of one man and of a very fair, well-acquainted, and genial person connected with the institution. Such a person could analyze the statements and interpret the motives and repeat conversations, if he does it in the fair spirit in which you have done it, without causing offense. If a committee sent out the paper it would be necessary for its members to state that the paper had been prepared by one acquainted with the situation, and seemed so just and fair to the committee who had been given the privilege of reading it, that it had taken the responsibility of printing it.

As far as I now know, it would be possible for me to come to Philadelphia on Tuesday, the thirteenth. I think a meeting would do good. I do not know who else you feel disposed to invite to the meeting. The attitude of Dr. Craig encourages me to believe that Dr. McCartney and Dr. Alexander might also look favorably upon the paper. In conclusion, if you call the meeting for December 13th, I will try to come to Philadelphia and promise not to be contentious.

Your friend truly,

William L. McEwan

wlm;arl

Third Presbyterian Church.
Pittsburgh, Pa.

November 26, 1927.

Rev. W. C. Robinson, D.D.
Delhi, New York

My Dear Dr. Robinson:

I think the last four sections of your continued story about Princeton are the most satisfactory of any that have come. I have forwarded them as you requested to Dr. Laird. I shall be glad to know what his reaction is to the whole set of proposed pamphlets. Personally, I have little hope of preventing the Committee from carrying out its purpose at the next General Assembly unless some clear legal objection can be brought that compels a stay of procedure. The indulgence of harsh language and imputing crooked motives to men not only does not do any good but it alienates fair minded men, who might otherwise be ready to listen to a reasonable plea. A large part of our trouble arises from our own faults.

Very truly yours,

William L. McEwan

wlm;arl

Third Presbyterian Church.
Pittsburgh, Pa.

November 23, 1927.

Rev. W. C. Robinson, D.D.
Delhi, New York

My Dear Dr. Robinson:

Your suggestion that these writings should be printed separately as leaflets and sent out in the most economical way as regards postage, does not seem to me wise. For my own part, I prefer to have the whole of such an argument set before me at one time. I would rather, therefore, think that it would be better to have one pamphlet than a lot of little leaflets.

You suggest that some of us get together in Philadelphia in December and go over all carefully. This would be a very necessary course if the pamphlets are to be issued. I do not see how several people could sign what you have written. I doubt if anybody in the Board, except Laird and you and me would be willing to take the attitude you have taken and grant the honesty and rights of the other side as fully. Moreover, you have been so frank and so free to analyze and comment upon the actions and characteristics of the professors, that such a document could only be signed by one man. He might not necessarily put his name to the article, but the signature would show that these were the opinions of one member of the Board. I mean to say by this, that such opinions as you have expressed might be justified as those of a fair and kindly man, but could not be the work of several minds. Except for the financial burden, it seems to me that your articles would have to be issued as the opinion of one person and the question of the wisdom of sending them forth, you would submit to your most trusted friends. As I have read the articles, the analysis of the situation and the explanations of the actions of the men have my full agreement, and indeed from time to time, it is difficult for me to keep from chuckling as I read.

I would consult Laird before submitting the paper to Craig. I do not believe that Craig would be willing to accept your interpretations and opinions. Of course, I do not know, but these are my impressions. As to the last bundle that came, I am of the opinion that two of them have in them too much hearsay on which to base a public criticism, and the other one has in it parts that ought to be omitted.

Your friend truly,

William L. McEwan

wlm;arl

Third Presbyterian Church,
Pittsburgh, Pa.

Return Thru
WCR

November 10, 1927.

Rev. W. C. Robinson, D.D.
Delhi, New York

My Dear Dr. Robinson:

In reading the manuscript for a proposed pamphlet to be issued, I have been much interested. I have taken the liberty, suggested by you, of making notes on the margin of corrections or changes that seem to me worth considering. My first impression upon starting to read the manuscript was that it was too long and too diffuse. As I went further into the reading of your manuscript, I came to the conclusion that perhaps the naive, personal tone to the thing was far better than a concise definite statement of the facts presented.

Reading on deeper into the manuscript, I felt the fairness of your estimates of the different men whose names are mentioned and about whom the storms are raging; and I felt that this very fairness and frankness, both of criticism and praise, of these men would make a right impression upon those who should read the pamphlet when it is printed.

I think you will find that the leaders among the friends of Dr. Machen will not be satisfied with your commendation of the good qualities of Dr. Stevenson and Dr. Erdman. You have analyzed the situation and both praised and blamed each side in the controversy, and yet have consistently and steadily pled for the maintenance of the historic integrity of the seminary. Such suggestions as I have wished to make are marked on the margin of the manuscript which I return.

If you wish my personal judgment about the wisdom of sending such a pamphlet as you have here prepared, I have no hesitation in saying that I will bear my part of the responsibility for issuing it and that I think it would do good.

Very sincerely yours,
William L. McEwan

wlm;arl

You have dealt fairly with all the questions. You have said things that I would not have dared to say, and yet balanced them, so that they are not hurtful. I do not think the ultra-conservatives will be pleased.
Yours, William L. McEwan

Denver, Colorado,
October 16, 1927
1055 Lincoln Street.

Dear cousin Courtland,

I thank you heartily for the generous, gracious expressions contained in your letter received a little while ago. Every word I appreciate. It is a real joy to hear about your charming family. You and Gussie have every reason to feel very proud and very happy over giving to the

Over see Minnie? When I was at Columbia three years ago, we had luncheon together.

worked such a group of fine people. I know that if I were in the shoes of you two, I should be all puffed out like a pouter pigeon all the time

That I have had hard knocks, many of them, is true, but if my attitude towards those knocks and towards those whose lives touched mine had been different, I might have transformed my environment into something worth while. To day I meet my problems and try to surmount them. It is not always easy and I may not always succeed as I should, but as I grow I shall win for I am greater than anything that can come to me.

Responsibility for me began away back near the beginning when I became, at thirteen, the wage-earner for the family. And I simply hung my harp on a willow and sat down by bitter waters and wept. For years I sat, or waded or wept and of course added to everybody's unhappiness by so doing

About a month ago or two I was thinking about forty years ago and wondering about it all. To-day my education does not amount to much — it lacks system. I did graduate from the State Teachers College after Mr. Miller died, but I had to work so many extra hours each day to get the money for expenses, that when I secured my

life diploma and turned my back on the college and town, I felt that I never wished to see either one again. I am progressing along spiritual lines and while I may not have proceeded far, it is something to have my two feet pointing in the right direction. I am no longer worried about dying and a saying that the Germans have, helped me to put a heavy foot on that fear. This is it: "Do not go to the last thing first." Dying is the last thing; take care of your living and the dying will take care of itself. Religion should be the most beautiful force in one's life, but to be of any value it must be used every hour

of seven days a week and not just an hour or two on the seventh - It should be joyous and not the sour, dour kind of the Puritans. That it will work every day I know, for I am beginning to see results in my school grind of night and day work. I expect to elevate the double work above the status of a grind - Growth, you see even though I do have to get a microscope to see it. Christianity really lived would heal all the

troubles of the whole world. I was well-pleased with a comment Brisbane made just after the armistice. Someone had suggested that Christianity be tried for the world's ailments. Brisbane added that he approved the suggestion for Christianity had never been tried yet.

Sunday, November 21 -

Thus far had I written when an interruption came followed by an avalanche of work made up of meetings, lectures, and overtime responsibilities at school, caused by the going of the principal to Maine to lick before the teachers gathered at Portland. Then it fell to my portion to speak at two or three luncheons and a dinner, on my pilgrimage to our lovely Hawaii last summer. So you see my cup of activity has been brimming free. This letter is long enough I admit, but my pen wishes to talk some more, so take the reading on the instalment plan.

I am torn between two absorbing desires: to go to Oahu and to finish studies for my bachelor's degree. I may do both

(wouldn't it be jolly?), but the "bird of time is on the wing and has not far to flutter." As far as school is concerned, my degree never helps, for now and then I have known it to come to pass that teachers have been asked to withdraw when the age limit is reached. I am several years beyond the dead line, but, on the other hand, I'm "delivering the goods" and more. That's that.

In Spain I have two friends, the wife has been in my life for twenty-five years. For eight years Madrid has been their home, but part of each year is spent at Versailles and at La Palma, Morjorca, where they maintain a villa -

"Many a time and oft" have I been importuned to tarry in their homes for a season. Both husband and wife are writers of no mean ability, having several books on things Spanish to their credit, and they are also doing a work for Spain that Alphonso recognized last summer by presenting each with the grand cross of Alphonso XII. When I was in Paris, they ran up from Madrid to spend a day with me and, like Stevenson, I was out of myself not only that day but several others. You see what kind of bees are buzzing in my bonnet.

Went to church this morning, then walked the mile or two to my apartment. The day was filled with the fall atmosphere, the mountains blotted out by low-lying clouds and I wished ~~for Honolulu~~ and its beautiful blossoms and its people who take time to be gracious and happy.

I am enclosing a circular of our school, thinking that you and Gussie might be interested in looking it over. Four thousand have registered and there will be the usual nine thousand before the year is done. You know they are not all present at the same time. The student comes for the subjects he wishes, as it may be an hour or two or more that he stays. "All sorts and conditions of men" and women come from fourteen to sixty or more. Some high in the scale, many, many far from high, but needing most the helping hand. Some used to daily ablutions, others, I judge from evidence presented, used to a biennial bath. These are amongst my hardest moments. But I'm refrain when the transformation comes.

Dined with Ellen last night. Both Will & Ellen happy over the medal

presented by the University of Colorado. I feel all puffed over it myself. Will told me that he had sent you an account of the delightful event, as I need not enlarge upon it. The University took his picture in cap & gown. Learned men from the east & two with Oxford degrees graced the occasion. Once, I had a beautiful hour at Oxford talking to a man that loved every old stone and every blade of grass. The mob of tourists had passed on, a deluge was descending on the just & others outside & he talked and every time he reached a period & silence I started him on. It is an unforgettable moment. I pinched myself to see if it were really Mary Fenton. Love to you & Jessie from your Cousin Mary.

MRS. FRANCIS H. McCHESNEY
304 SUMMIT AVENUE
SYRACUSE, NEW YORK

Dear Old Friend.

How good of you to write me about Irene. The news of her wedding was astonishing to us who met & fond of her. I am always glad to hear from you and news of what the Robinson family are up to are most welcome.

You will be sorry I hand to learn that my good-

husband is in the Memorial Hospital - where he was operated on a week ago for appendicitis. Having beaten a twisted appendix and general peritonitis by the small margin - the surgeons have us - of about two hours. He has been very ill - and these last few days have been filled with anxiety for us all. but - I am rejoicing

MRS. FRANCIS H. McCHESNEY
304 SUMMIT AVENUE
SYRACUSE, NEW YORK

in the fact - that each day we show some improvement in his condition. I think his convalescence may be rather slow for he was so very tired. They have been building a new factory which will be ready to occupy about Jan 1st - It is in the North End of town. and very modern

and "efficient". That seems to be the watch word of business prominence these days. Then he is chairman of all the City and Regional Planning in Union Co. and that takes much of his time. and of course there is always the business. Allen Dan is coming on so finely and assuming much of the work and anxiety that his Father has carried so many years.

MRS. FRANCIS H. McCHESNEY
304 SUMMIT AVENUE
SYRACUSE, NEW YORK

I do not think we shall
leave Syracuse this year -
either for "Brazil" or the
"Mom" - or even a move by
district. I might say
that perhaps Dr Broad
Dr Broad and a few others
of the medical profession
may be doing the med-
ducis or the Cost Ducis
or some other faculty
spot, we are sure -

I would love you know
that I love three grand
children of my own —
Now Mary Alexander having
been added to & made
family June 6th. She is
a sweet heart!
I suppose you know Dr
Ferris has again resigned —
his resignation to take
effect May 1st. & he will be
here finish & Truly yours
Service to Park Church —

MRS. FRANCIS H. McCHESNEY
304 SUMMIT AVENUE
SYRACUSE, NEW YORK

Mrs. Farmer has just had a large fortune left her I hear from an uncle who recently died. She needed it — poor thing — I think this is about the third she has had during the time I have known her — and Dr Farmer always had the reputation of having a "rich wife" —

Mrs Tracy the dear old soul
celebrated her seventy fifth
birthday the other day.
Some of her friends made
up a purse of seventy five
dollars in gold. The years hav
touched her lightly. She looks
and acts the same as ever
and sews every day.
I must run back to the
hospital - I shall be so
glad to get home
but it will probably be a
couple of weeks yet -
My best to your good friends
Sincerely D. McKinney -

Northminster Presbyterian Church

Cor. Baring and 35th Streets

Philadelphia October 22,1927

The Rev. W. C. Robinson, D.D.
The Manse,
Delhi, N.Y.

Dear Dr. Robinson:

Enclosed is a check of Northminster Church for $35.00 - an honorarium for your services last Sabbath morning. Your many friends have been delighted to have you back for this visit with them and I am quite sure the hearty welcome which you received last Sabbath morning has been very satisfactory to you.

With every good wish, I am,

Most cordially yours,

Joseph B.C. Mackie

JBCM/D
Encl. Ck.

Third Presbyterian Church.
Pittsburgh, Pa.

October 19, 1927.

Rev. W. C. Robinson, D.D.
Delhi, New York

My Dear Dr. Robinson:

It is not my purpose to take up all your time in making reports to me about meetings that I do not attend, but your report of the Princeton meeting gave me such insight, and atmosphere, and information, that I feel that I owe you a letter of thanks. The spirit of bitterness cultivated and expressed by little groups of our friends blinds their eyes and dulls their judgment, and prevents them from being free to follow the impulses of their hearts in debate and at the time of voting. The idea of building a new theological seminary does not appeal to me. It seems fantastic. It could not in a century, mean to the Church what Princeton now does. The Hodge Family, as far as I know, has no great wealth in any of its branches. The Alexander Family, or some branches of it, have much wealth. If someone connected with that family would start a subscription with about a million dollars, there might be some hope of securing the necessary money. Even so, there would remain the reluctance in my mind to build a new institution. It may be that in the future, there will be no refuge for the conservatives, but it also may be that by that time, there will be no conservatives left to want such an institution. I am utterly opposed to the bluffing and threatening idea to halt the Committee. Also I am opposed to using the threat of a new institution in connection with legal action, as you report was suggested by our friend.

When Dr. Stevenson sent out the usual invitation to lunch at his house, I wrote accepting it on condition that I was able to come. I do not feel any embarrassment in going under circumstances in which the luncheon is given and I do feel embarassed, if when I know the luncheon is provided, I go somewhere else merely to avoid entering the President's house. You did well to persuade Laird to go, and if I had been there, I would have tried to persuade some others to go.

Why any of our friends should have objected to the suggestion of J. Williston Smith as a director, I can not understand. He certainly was the accepted candidate for the Moderator of the General Assembly of the conservative party. I think you did exactly right in accepting the suggestion to nominate him. It would have been foolish in you to put yourself in the position of turning down a man with such a history. I am surprised that Dr. Stevenson nominated him. If we are going to be suspicious and offish about every person or movement that comes from him, even when we, ourselves, would have made the initial suggestion, we can not justify ourselves to right thinking people.

Rev. W. C. Robinson, D.D. October 19, 1927.

I also agree with you in your judgment about publishing the faculty report disapproving of the merger. Everybody knows that the majority of the Board of Directors disapproves of this action. The General Assembly has, however, ordered it to be done. The publishing of such a report at this time would simply be the announcement of a spirit of defiance. Of course, we do not want it and, of course, we would rejoice in any opportunity to delay it or prevent it, but simply to stand up and wave a red rag would not only create a bad impression, but would irritate and harden the Committee appointed by the Assembly to carry out its instructions. I would much rather prepare the best brief against the action in private and not say one word about it until the matter came before the final judges. It is my opinion that some of the public criticisms of the Committee have not shown the spirit I would like to see. It is one thing to attack a report. It is quite another thing to impute ~~the~~ dishonesty and make personal charges against the members of the Committee. Moreover, I do not blame my opponents for taking advantage of situations which I, myself, would use if I had the opportunity. There is no doubt that the Committee was biased. There is no doubt that the Assembly did not understand the issues and that many voted against us because of the impression made by the more kindly spirit of our opponents. However, we are subject to the Assembly and the Assembly has taken action and there is no use in our crying in the streets.

One of the greatest wrongs perpetrated in the whole matter is the prohibition of our putting in professors to teach the great body of students who are there. I wish something could be done to rectify it. This will hurt Princeton more than anything else, and it will hurt the whole church because of the lack of providing for these earnest men's great need.

I have not seen Dr. Alexander and believe he has not yet returned to the city. I saw McCartney and Hutchison for a few minutes at Board Meetings, but I have not had an opportunity to discuss matters with them. You are the only director to whom I have had the opportunity of expressing my views. They seem to be so much in harmony with yours that I doubt if my expressing them will be of any other use than to confirm each other in our attitudes.

My wife, who is in the hospital, is recovering from her operation and we are promised that in another week she may come home.

Your friend truly,

William L. McEwan

wlm;arl

Third Presbyterian Church.
Pittsburgh, Pa.

October 12, 1927

My dear 'Court'—

You never write me a letter that does not make me wish we were close enough together to have heart to heart and frequent opportunities to be together. It was good of you to answer my letter before you went to Princeton. I agree with all your expressed judgements about the present situation and the mistakes we have made, and the surprises you have had by reason of the actions of some brethren.

As Grover Cleveland reminded his comrades, we are faced not with a theory but a condition. I don't believe we can prevent the consolidation of the Boards, with our acknowledged position of being a creature of the assembly. There is no use bluffing nor bucking. What our committee ought to do, is to safeguard all they can under our necessity of yielding to the mandate of the assembly. It is not necessary to the prosperity of the seminary, of course: and it was ordered by the victory of a partizan committee. On the other hand, it will not necessarily destroy the seminary, either. If the Boards come merged as they stand, with all the present members, and agreement were made that vacancies caused by death or resignation, should

not be filled until the membership would be 40 or 50 or whatever is normal and best, the problem would be greatly solved. There has not been enough contact between the Boards heretofore. That has been a serious evil. Then those who represented our Board to the other Board, (Laird being the great exception) often misrepresented us or let misapprehensions go uncomplained.

No Board would ask any of the present professors to resign — nor would they likely trouble them in their teaching.

I still insist that part of our trouble comes from our attitude of unyielding about trifling matters — or certain mannerisms in expressing our [illegible] lack of appreciation of the "middle of the road" men and their importance to us. The present age is very sensitive to, and resentful of, seeming intolerance and narrowness, and we have not taken the trouble to be gracious and considerate and polite — I don't mean hypocritical. I mean we have not exercised the ordinary common sense that all men use when they seek personalities

and pride and too-sensitive feelings in order to win a great cause and commend it to others.

Third Presbyterian Church.
Pittsburgh, Pa.

But I am preaching to you! to you who are the embodiment of courtesy and consideration though standing firmly for the truth –

I wish you would write me of the meeting not only of the bare actions – but impressions – atmosphere – attitudes – and your own reactions. I was sorry not to come, but I am not able to have home, while my wife is in the hospital –

Any report I would get from Alexander or McCartney would be brief and unsatisfactory. If I could see you or Laird I could get what would inform me of the present situation and the probable future action –

It is a gloomy, raining afternoon, and I haven't finished preparation for prayer-meeting yet, so I will quite right here.

With affectionate regards

Yours truly

William L. McEwan

Third Presbyterian Church.
Pittsburgh, Pa. October 6/27

My dear 'Court' –

(1) Your estimate of Speer agrees with mine. In every contact with him, I have found him honest-hearted, and he is, in my judgment, one of the ablest men of this generation. There is no Secretary like him.

(2) I consider the matter of the consolidation settled and unescapable, unless we want to be a recalcitrant, rebellious body and lose touch with the whole Church. As the Board of Trustees will name the members of the new Board, I would not expect to be retained, and the dropping out, which it would not be relished, would relieve me of responsibility –

(3) The service Princeton has rendered to the Kingdom of God has been so great, and the Truth for which She stands is so fundamental, that we may rest assured that God will

not permit her to be destroyed. We may be chastened and tried; but in the end, it will enable us to do more effective work.

(4) I am writing very frankly and confidentially to you. I do not believe that Dr Erdman has been properly treated at Princeton. Dr Benj Warfield resented the introduction into Princeton of primary departments — & a Professor whose work covered what he thought ought to have been done in the home and the Sabbath School. Erdman was always shut out of the circle of Princeton representatives. I regard part of our trouble as arising from personal differences between Machen & Erdman

I am also of the opinion that if you were a member of the Faculty it would be hard for you to live up to Machen's standards. They have practically dropped Patton out of the orthodox class because he wrote that he hoped the faculty differences could be settled by honorable compromise — What could Erdman and Stevenson both over 60 yrs of age — do against the policy of Princeton, if they were endured and treated like Christian brethren? It seems to me a misfortune that these differences were carried to the floor of the New Brunswick Presbytery, and the soiled linen hung on a national line instead of the campus grass.

Third Presbyterian Church.
Pittsburgh, Pa.

There is no doubt that Erdman has the sympathy of the Church. Why? I don't think the great rank of the ministry of the Presbyterian Church is "liberal" in the sense of repudiating the historic Reformed position; but the ordinary man who is not on the Bd of Directors of Princeton Seminary feels that in these days a hard, uncompromising, intolerant and impatient attitude does not satisfy him. Instead of winning and holding the "middle of the road" men, whose training would make them belong to us, we have driven them under the banner of the other side. I can see this kind of thing going on in our Presbytery, and even in our meetings of the Bd of Directors of the Seminary. We are so confident that we have the right, that we are not careful enough to win the hesitating

and confused - (5)

Third Presbyterian Church.
Pittsburgh, Pa.

Enough of this! You understand, and if I am not mistaken, have felt all these things. Our present trouble, in my judgment, is due to our own way of managing our affairs, pretty largely.

Stevenson has only had any strength because he is associated with Erdman.

Finally - we cannot resist the will of the assembly now - partizan as were the methods by which that will was expressed. Our Committee will have to safeguard what remains as best can be done. I do not claim any wisdom or superior virtue, and I am thankful I am not on the Committee - neither shall I feel bound to accept its report unless it shows

the spirit we need -

I may not be able to attend the Board meeting Tuesday, as my wife was operated on in a hospital here Tuesday. It will depend on how anxious I am when the time for the meeting comes. So far, I thank God, she is reported as doing well.

With my love
Your friend
William L. McEwan

ELMIRA

Elmira, N.Y.
Oct 29, 1927

Dear Mr. Robinson,

Things do come out right in the end don't they? I suppose [illegible] I just [illegible] heard the most mean talk about my kids! I was all prepared in case they should be worse after my summer perch, to keep it from Mathilda but believe me I didn't keep anything from her with such good news! Two morning when I went down to the kitchen I was hardly a mouse and I was some surprised when he checked up and

gave me a weaker lens! That's the first time such a thing has happened. A oculist's next really marked wonders! He is going to check up on me again before Christmas to see what Etienne's college work does for me. My original plan was to do as little studying possible at night but he preferred my studying more at night and getting out in the day time. According to him the tissues of my eyes are very weak and the lens have strengthen them. It does them good to use them again by only to study!

Work has started in earnest and will continue to run now on! In fact at

present we are all waiting for a fire drill which is one of the pleasant experiences of college. It is especially pleasant when about two o'clock some winter's morning with half open eyes you tumble down the fire escape!

Mother seems to be getting along nicely and she has some wonderful girls. That is a great help because it makes it so much easier for her.

Last Sunday I wished I were in Delhi listening to one of your sermons for the one I listened to was extremely short and snappy mostly

crappy. Before he finished he called down a young fellow in the audience for holding a paper in front of his face. The minister in question was Mr. Cornwell of the Park Church and he certainly left a bad remembrance of his sermon. In the beginning he very sarcastically spoke to the people who had "borrowed" the church hymn books. I had to laugh for I knew how that was!?

Well, it's late and I must get up early in the morning. You remember, Doctor, you still owe me a letter from last year!

Give my love to Mrs Robinson.

Much love

Gertrude

Northminster Presbyterian Church
Cor. Baring and 35th Streets
Philadelphia

September 28,1927

The Rev. W. Courtland Robinson,D.D.
The Manse,
Delhi, N.Y.

My dear Dr. Robinson:

I am very happy to learn that you have been invited to assist me at the Rife wedding. I have just learned that you will be here Sunday preceding the wedding,which is October 16th. It would give me great pleasure and I know it would greatly please your many friends in this Church to have you preach at one of the services on Sunday, October 16th. I would be very happy to have you take your choice of either morning or evening service, if you will kindly let me know by return mail in order that I may announce in the Church Bulletin in advance the service at which you will preach.

Trusting to see you at that time, I am,

Cordially yours,

Joseph B.C. Mackie

JBCM/D